

Forest Service, USDA

§ 230.11

(2) The landowner establishes to the satisfaction of the Service Representative that:

(i) A reasonable effort was made to meet the minimum requirements; and

(ii) The practice, as performed, adequately meets the objectives of the landowner forest stewardship plan.

(g) Where the landowner has received cost-share assistance for site preparation and the establishment of trees has been unsuccessful due to factors beyond the landowner's control, the Service Representative shall require that trees be re-established and shall approve cost-share assistance for such activity.

(h) If a landowner sells, conveys, or otherwise loses control of lands upon which there is a continuing obligation to maintain a practice and the new landowner does not agree to assume the responsibility for maintaining the practice, the landowner who was originally obligated to maintain the practice shall be liable to reimburse the United States for all cost-share payments on such practices.

(i) In case of death or incompetency of any landowner, the State Forester shall approve cost-share payments to the successor if the successor agrees to maintain the practices for the duration of the required maintenance period.

(j) Any landowner who may be entitled to any cost-share payment under this subpart may assign the right thereto, in whole or in part, under the following terms:

(1) Payments may be assigned only for performance of a Program practice.

(2) A payment which is made to a landowner may not be assigned to pay or secure any preexisting debt.

(3) Neither the United States, the Forest Service, the Secretary of Agriculture, nor any disbursing agent shall be liable in any suit if payment is made to an assignor rather than to an assignee, and nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize any suit against the United States, the Forest Service, the Secretary or any disbursing agent if payment is not made to the assignee, or if payment is made to only one of several assignees.

(k) No cost-share payment or portion thereof due and owing any landowner shall be subject to any claim arising

under State law by any creditor, except agencies of the United States Government.

§ 230.10 Prohibitions.

(a) No cost-share funds shall be paid for the following:

(1) Costs incurred before an application for cost-share assistance is approved;

(2) The implementation of any practice(s) already required by law, regulation, or other authority; and

(3) Repairs or normal upkeep or maintenance of any practice.

(b) No cost-share assistance shall be paid for repeating practices on the same site by the same landowner which have been implemented under the Forestry Incentives Program (16 U.S.C. 2104) or any other Federal, State, or local government programs, or private sector programs, except where such practices are repeated due to a failure of a prior practice without fault of the landowner.

§ 230.11 Recapture of payment.

(a) If any landowner, successor, or assignee uses any scheme or device to unjustly benefit from this program, the cost-share funds shall be withheld or a refund of all or part of any Program payments otherwise due or paid that person shall be secured. A scheme or device includes, but is not limited to, coercion, fraud or misrepresentation, false claims, or any business dissolution, reorganization, revival, or other legal mechanism designed for or having the effect of evading the requirements of this subpart.

(b) If any landowner or successor takes any action or fails to take action which results in the destruction or impairment of a prescribed practice for the duration of the practice, cost-share funds shall be withheld or a recapture of all or part of any Program payments otherwise due or paid shall be secured based on the extent and effect of destruction and impairment.

(c) Nothing in this section requiring the withholding or refunding of cost-share funds shall preclude any penalty or liability otherwise imposed by law.